



## Porter Henderson Library *Faculty Newsletter*



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### Flooring Projects in the Library Effect Access Over the Intercession

Beginning on the afternoon of December 14th, contractors will be working in the Library to finish several major flooring replacement projects over the Christmas Break period. There will be no access to the Basement from December 15th to approximately January 13th. This means *no one* will be able to access periodicals, media materials, and items stored in Closed Stacks, Storage, and the Index Room. Furthermore, the Language & Learning Lab will be unavailable during this period. Please make arrangements to retrieve any items you may need from the Basement before *December 7<sup>th</sup>*.

Over the weekend of December 15th and 16th and during the week of December 17th to the 21st, the carpeting on the Library's First Floor will be replaced with a combination of vinyl tiles and carpet squares. The existing carpeting separated from its backing and became a hazard for users and staff. Access to the Circulation Desk and Reference Area should be available again on the morning of December 17th. Materials in the Reference Room and Juvenile Collection areas will not be available for most of that week. Again, please make arrangements to retrieve any items you may need from the First Floor collections before *December 14th*. These two areas should be available by the time the University reopens in January (1/2/2002).

I regret the inconvenience these projects cause, but this is the best time to do these major flooring replacement projects. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. (Maurice.Fortin@angelo.edu or 942-2222 ext. 222)

#### Extended Hours During Final Exams



The Library will be open extended hours during the final exam period. On Sunday, December 9, the Library will be open until midnight. On Monday, December 10, through Wednesday, December 12, the Library will remain open until 2:00 a.m.

During the evenings of December 10-12, coffee and cookies will be provided by the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection and Career Services.

### Sticker Shock! – The Cost of Information at Porter Henderson Library

Former Media Librarian, Barb Bergman, sent the address to a web site she thought her ASU colleagues would find interesting. Created by the Florida Atlantic University Libraries Web Site Design Team, “Dollars & Sense: The



Cost of Information” compares the cost of print and electronic resources to a variety of goods and services from our everyday lives. Mark Allan (Head, Reference Department) found several other web sites showcasing the same type of comparisons: “Sticker Shock” (Cornell University), “Show Me the Money—The Reality of Library Costs” (University of Maryland, Health Sciences and Human Services Library), and “Library Sees Red Over Rising Journal Prices” (Brown University, Sciences Library). (See the list at the end of the article for URLs.)

Mr. Allan and Javad Maher (Acquisitions Librarian) searched the Internet and their records to find comparisons for costs the Porter Henderson Library must cover *each year* for its own online and print resources. The examples below compare some selected online database services and print resources costs for *one year* with

goods and/or services from “everyday life.”

The RamNet database used most often by Porter Henderson Library users is OCLC’s FirstSearch. The Library’s costs for access is **\$34,100**. If you’re looking for a new car you can buy a 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche (including tax, title, and license) for \$34,051.

The popular database LEXIS-NEXIS Academic Universe costs the Library **\$8,250**. A motorcycle lover can buy a Harley-Davidson XLH Sportster for a few hundred dollars less at \$7,995.

The Library purchases access to the database Sports Discuss (limited to one user at a time) for **\$2,300**. For about the same cost (\$2,205) a basketball fan can purchase one sideline prime (in the second tier) season ticket for the San Antonio Spurs.

Access to another online service, Accounting Research Manager, is **\$7,600**, or you could spend slightly less (\$7,590) and take a 14-day Caribbean reef cruise for two.

Are you interested in reading the major newspaper from London (England, that is)? The Library subscribes to *The Times* for \$745 and the *London Times Index* for \$1,875, or both for **\$2,620**. But, if you want to read the same newspaper *in London*, you could fly there with a friend next February, round trip via American Airlines, for \$2,450. (The remaining funds would cover some of your expenses while you are there.)



Books accompanied by CD-ROMs are appearing more and more in the Library. One book purchased recently on information security policies will cost the Library **\$995** to replace. For slightly more than that (\$1,039) a person wanting a new computer can purchase a Dell Dimension™ 4300 machine, with an Intel® Pentium® 4 processor at

1.6GHz, a 40 GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive, a 32MB NVIDIA GeForce 2 MX 4X AGP Graphics Card with TV-Out, and a 48x Max Variable CD ROM – if it is ordered online.

What about video tapes, those staples of modern life found at Blockbusters, Hastings, Hollywood Video, and their like? A set of thirteen 28-minute videos, *History of musical instruments*, cost **\$1,499**. A music lover can log on to ebay and bid on a Fender Stratocaster, autographed by Steve Miller, Eddie Money, Foghat, Blue Oyster Cult, Big Head Todd, Spin Doctors, REO Speedwagon, Robby Krieger (the Doors), Spencer Davis, Mike Pinerra (Iron Butterfly), Pete Rivera (Rare Earth), Phil Lesh, Dickie Betts, Head East, and Gim Blossoms. The top bid a few days ago was \$1,200. Or, if you aren’t interested in an autographed instrument, purchase a 1960’s Grammar S-30 guitar at another Internet site for \$1,500.

Two examples of journal subscriptions, their costs, and comparative “real world” goods are *Journal of Physical Chemistry A & B* and *Animal Reproduction Science*. You can subscribe to the *Journal* for one year for only **\$3,590**, or spend about the same amount and buy approximately 54 pounds of silver – on November 12 silver sold at \$4.13 an ounce. A cattle rancher looking to improve his herd could take **\$1,450** per year and subscribe to *Animal Reproduction Science* to read more about the topic, or he could buy a breeding bull. These animals can cost anywhere from \$710 to \$1,850 or more a head.

The Library’s total costs for *all* standing orders and journal subscriptions this year is **\$560,950**. Are you looking for a new home? Take the same amount of money and move to north Bosque County near Waco where \$550,000 will buy you 174.53 acres. According to the online advertisement, this “excellent” half wooded, half pasture lakeside property includes a spacious 2,200 square foot home, oak and pecan trees, three stocked tanks, a seasonal creek, and abundant wildlife.

#### Library web sites mentioned above:

*Dollars & Sense: The Cost of Information* (Florida Atlantic University):

<http://www.library.fau.edu/depts/ref/infocost.htm>

*Library Sees Red Over Rising Journal Prices* (Brown University, Sciences Library):

[http://www.brown.edu/Administration/George\\_Street\\_Journal/vol24/24GSJ19c.html](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/George_Street_Journal/vol24/24GSJ19c.html)

*Show Me the Money—The Reality of Library Costs* (University of Maryland, Health Sciences and Human Services Library): <http://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/information/news/exhibits/money/index.html>

*Sticker Shock* (Cornell University): <http://www.englilb.cornell.edu/displays/stickershock/default.html>